

31227. CHRYSANTHEMUM MARSCHALLII Aschers.

From Odessa, Russia. Procured from Mr. B. F. Shtamma; presented by Mr. John H. Grout, American consul. Received July 9, 1911.

"A perennial herb belonging to the Compositæ family, closely related to the plant furnishing the Persian insect powder (*Chrysanthemum roseum* W. and M.). The flowers and unopened flower buds, when dried and finely powdered, are used to kill insects, the powder of this species being known also as Persian insect powder. The flowers in some forms are double and give value to the plant as an ornamental. This species occurs with *Chrysanthemum roseum* in the high mountains of the Caucasus, Armenia, and northern Persia, where it occupies sunny areas." (R. H. True.)

31228. DRACAENA CINNABARI Balf. f. **Dragon's-blood tree.**

From island of Socotra, Africa. Procured by Mr. Charles K. Moser, American consul, Aden, Arabia. Received May 24, 1911.

"I saw three varieties of this tree growing close together and was much interested in their ruby exudations, of which the natives now make but little use. They call the tree *a'ará-eeib* (as near as I can get it phonetically) and the exudation *mu-soilo*. This tree, I believe, would grow well in the San Bernardino Mountains, of which the Haghier Hills much remind me." (Moser.)

"I found the average height of this tree to vary from 18 to 20 feet, and its circumference from 3 to 5. When young they usually have but one stem and no branches, the leaves being disposed in the form of a star round the upper part, but as they get older they may be seen with three, four, and even five stems. From the extremity of each branch a cluster of leaves rises perpendicularly, which are disposed in a circular form radiating from the center. The branches are thickly interwoven in the most fantastic and tortuous shapes, but the foliage, assuming a more regular and better-defined outline, rises in a semicircular shape over the summit. Their appearance at a distance is therefore that of an inverted cone supported by a thin cylinder. The bark of the tree is of a lead color; the wood is soft and spongy, having thin longitudinal fibers extending along it; the roots spread very much, partially intersecting each other near the surface. Few of them extend to any depth, and they may frequently be observed seeking sufficient nourishment from the soil lodged in the cavities in the rocks. The Arabs consider the tree to be of different sexes. The male, they say, produces no gum, which exudes so spontaneously from the female trees that it does not appear necessary on any occasion to make incisions. Soon after the setting in of the southwest monsoon is considered to be the period most favorable for collecting it." (Wellsted, *Travels in Arabia*, vol. 2, 1838, pp. 448-451.)

31229 to 31231.

From Peru. Presented by Mr. J. A. Furlong, Perene, Peru. Received June 9, 1911.

Tubers of the following:

31229. IPOMOEA BATATAS (L.) Poir. **Sweet potato.**

"Grown by the savages in the Perene district." (Furlong.)

31230 and 31231. SOLANUM spp. **Potato.**

31230. "Tubers uniform in size, small to medium. Shape uniform, mostly round to oblate, flattened. Surface smooth to knobby. Distal end obtuse to truncate. Stem small to large, central. Proximal end obtuse to truncate. Bud-eye cluster small to large, little too much depressed, central. Cavity rather large, narrow to broad, deep, irregular. Skin thick, tough, not easily bruised, glossy to dull, purple to violet mottled with coppery yellow, variable. Eyes few to many, mostly grouped at distal end, small to large, deep, compound, regular, com-